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Greetings from Iraq. Some tired troops here today as many stayed up late to watch the Super Bowl last night. The game was televised live at 2:30 in the morning here in Baghdad. Speaking of sports, we're working to ensure our soldiers have time to work out here. Just about everyone is on some kind of personal work out schedule. We do not allow formation runs, and working out in groups larger than a small 2-3 person team is prohibited for force protection reasons. We have three gyms all within close walking distance that have all the usual exercise equipment and weights. Our troopers are making good use of the facilities. Now on to the news from each of our units...

Greetings Inn Keepers! Well another month has come and gone. The Soldiers of Headquarters Company continue to drive on and set the standard. This was an exceptionally good week for us in that many well-deserving Soldiers were promoted. Congratulations to CPT Juan Villatoro, CPT Katrina Wood, SSG Preston Walker, SGT Aaron Ashley, SGT Sayreia Linseby, SPC David Long, SPC Therese-Francis Martinez, SPC Robaire Johnson, PFC Christopher Henson, PFC Samuel Jenkins, PFC Jeffrey Bulles, and PV2 Carlos Johnson-Graham. Furthermore, congrats to the following Soldiers who reenlisted this week: SGT Carmica Garner, SGT Amos Nyakundi, SPC Richard Hurley, SPC Rashad Ford, and SPC Dwight Glenn. This week's player of the week is CPL Jason Baita. CPL Baita has proven to be an invaluable leader in the Support Platoon. He is the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Battalion's fuel assets. CPL Baita is responsible for the storage and distribution of fuel in support of the Division Headquarters. Furthermore, CPL Baita has been selected to be the Battalion's Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) NCO. CPL Baita is an outstanding leader who is always willing to give 110% effort. As always, thanks for your love and support. Your packages and letters make each day brighter. Now let's see what's going on with the Soldiers in the Division Headquarters.

Division Troops sent its first soldiers home for R&R Leave this week, to the happiness of those soldiers who left (as well as their families). The company can expect over 60 soldiers to be on R&R Leave at an one time. All soldiers from the DTC will be afforded the opportunity to take R&R Leave sometime during the deployment and the soldiers who help manage this program, under the supervision of Staff Sergeant Staci Wise, are part of the G1 shop. They have done a great job in gearing the company for this program, because it is no small operation to send 60 people per month anywhere. Hats off to SSG Wise and the G1 shop. Ironhorse! Next up, the Division's Communicators.

Another great week for Alpha Company; these soldiers continue to get the

job done. The Division's Electronic Maintenance Facility is setting the standard for work space cleanliness and positive attitudes. Sergeants Jeff George and Mike Kellogg have proven they have the organizational skills to tackle the toughest jobs. Recently they emptied out an entire 20 foot container of spare parts, inventoried them, and organized and neatly stored them in their climate controlled building. This was no easy task, and an extremely important one. The parts are used to support all Signal units in the Division and are critical to maintaining the communications network. Also of note, a number of A Company Soldiers have been awarded with promotions recently, including SPC Kelvin Davis and SPC Melissa Reyes from TAC 2 Platoon, and PFC Channon Durbin from the TAC 2 Platoon. SGT Joel Medley, SGT William Watt, and SPC Jeffrey Madden all received their First Good Conduct Medal (GCM), which is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity in active federal service. Soldiers receiving additional GCMs are SSG Robert Vedder, SGT Miriam Ryan, SGT Reco Jackson, SGT Brett Williams and SGT (P) Joseph Keller. There has also been some Alpha Company birthdays recently, including SGT Joel Guy, SPC Melissa Reyes, and CP Detachment 1SG Miguel Carrion, who insists that he is 21 years old all over again. Now let's see what's happening with the Division Band.

This week was a week of awards and accolades for the 4ID Band. SPC Phaedra Frye (Supply Specialist) was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The ceremony was held in the 4ID Band building and she was pinned by the 4ID Band Supply Supervisor SFC (P) Steve Foxx and SPC Rashad Ford. Also, in attendance were SFC Regina Oliver, CPT Ron Duhart, CW2 Elizabeth Ellingson, SFC Manuel Torres, and SGT Corinne Peterson. On Thursday, 2 February 06, SGT Jose Pena reenlisted for six years. The reenlisting officer was CPT Katrina Wood, the 4ID STB S6. We're very happy to have a soldier of this high caliber decide to stay with one of the finest military Band's in the world. On a musical note, the Band has been very busy entertaining troops all over the local camps. The Country and Rock Band's did a great job at the Super Bowl parties here. The soldiers shared their musical enthusiasm with the troops on this very special day of football bliss (Go Steelers!). The Band sends their love and do keep them in your prayers. Now, on to the world of Military Intelligence.

As you might have guessed by now, D Company has many different and unique sections, and all with names that I can't share with you. But, I can tell you about the outstanding troopers that make up these sections. This newsletter's focus is on the section led by the Officer in Charge CPT Shawn Cozart and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge MSG James Van Sciver. The section consists of 2LT Mary West, PFC Justin Wallace and SSG Thomas Kroom. They use lots of video assets and help keep us aware of activities in our area of operations. Something I can share with you in more detail is that D Company had four new soldiers recently join their team. We welcomed MAJ Kurt Giese, 1LT(P) Kathryn Simonis, 2LT Mary West, and WO1 Casey Lynch to the Dealers. They were as excited to join us as we were to see them. Next up are our very own journalists,

the Iron Quill.

The MPAD's focus this week was to get ready for the second issue of the Ivy Leaf to come back from the printer so we can deliver it to the troops of the Division. But it's not a time for rest; the MPAD's troopers are already getting issue three ready for review as the paper is issued every other Sunday. The Broadcast section is focusing on the endeavors of the soldiers that assist the Iraqi military training and Iraqi Police work. Both the print and the broadcast section are focusing on all the essential service improvements in the country. There are many good news stories about the improvements in Iraq. Everyday there are people starting to get clean water, more electricity or better medical facilities and schools. They are grateful for our help and support. The MPAD's journalists see happy faces when they go cover a story about the improvements in the towns and villages. One of the soldiers that go out with the troops of the 4ID is SGT Kristin Kemplin. SGT Kemplin is from the St Louis, Missouri area and is a 46Q which is a print journalist. She has many duties in the MPAD; she is their certified mail handler and one of their vehicle drivers in addition to her main duty of writing stories and taking great photos. But her most important job is to do the layout of The Ivy Leaf newspaper. She places the stories and photos into the paper after the editor selects what gets printed in that issue. It's a tough job and it takes the creative talent that she's acquired with some practical experience and also the training she received at the Defense Information School. After the paper goes to the printer, as it did this week; SGT Kemplin starts out fresh, laying out the next issue. In between layout and taking photos, she finds time to go out and report on stories all around the Division. Not bad for a young 24 year old soldier. She enjoys her work and has been familiar with the military for awhile as her Mom is currently on active duty with the Army in Korea. Her Mom sends the MPAD cookies often; we like that. Now, let's check in with the mighty Infantry Gators!

The Gators of A Company, 1-22 Infantry have completed another successful and safe week of missions. Just as they got settled into the routine of daily activities, we decided to change it up a little bit. 2nd and 3rd platoons flip-flopped responsibility, and now 2nd has security at fixed sites and 3rd has the battle squad responsibility. It was challenging to make the switch while still accomplishing all of their assigned tasks, but the soldiers did a remarkable job. Of note, we welcomed CPL Kenneth Vest back to the Gators. Congratulations are in order to the Vest family on the birth of their baby. Happy Birthday to Chris Guffy (27 January) and Matthew Creed (29 January). I won't reveal their ages, though I know I have a few years (maybe a decade or more) on them! This week, A Company recognized PFC Gary Johnson as the Gator of the Week for upholding strict standards every single day at the DHA. We are fortunate to have everyone in the company in good health, and happy to be able to talk, write, and email you regularly. How was your Groundhog's Day back in the United States? It appears that we'll enjoy more rainy, muddy weather for a while here in Iraq. Have a great week Gator families. Ok, let's see what our Tactical Psychological

Company is up to now-a-days...

Our "Psyops" troops from the California based Army Reserve's 301st Tactical Psychological Operations Company are now heading into the home stretch and should be getting to leave Iraq in less than 90 days to close out their year long deployment here. They will be at Ft. Bragg for about a week going through demobilization activities which will include physicals, seeing the dentist and getting all of their records updated before they are released from active duty. Each Soldier will have some accumulated leave for which they will be paid at the end of the deployment, so you can plan a nice time with your Soldiers at home before they have to go back to work. The Company Commander is going to authorize each Soldier who deployed to skip drill for 60 days, which means that they will not have to come in to the unit until probably August. He is hoping to have a welcome home for all of you when they arrive, and then a family get together in September, hopefully with a parachute jump for all of the airborne personnel so the kids and spouses can watch their brave paratroopers in action. This is always looked forward to by the kids and dreaded by the spouses, but the unit's leadership will make sure that everyone's nerves are prepared. I would like to send out a special hello to the newest member of the family as SGT Joshua Smith's wife Mindy delivered their first child, Joshua Jacob Smith (seems to me that this name should have a "Jinglehimer" in it somewhere?). We are all very happy for them, and would like to send special congratulations to them. Please keep SPC John Stiebler and his family in your prayers as his grandmother is ill. These Troopers are all looking forward to seeing you, and I can speak for everyone when I say that you are missed, and continue to be on their minds as they complete their tour of duty here in Iraq. They are focusing on the present, keeping their eyes open and on the ball, but when they can, are thinking of you all and how soon they will get to see you. God bless all of the Soldiers of the 301st TPC, and keep their families and loved ones safe while they do this important work that they have been called to do. Finally, here is what A Company, 133 Signal have to say...

A / 133 Signal is continuing to provide communications to units in the Baghdad area. Last week I commented on the situation with mud. Over this week the mud had nearly all dried; however, we awoke to high winds and a day long rain which left many small ponds around our living areas. In perspective though – it is nothing compared to what I've been told about a good old Illinois winter blizzard. The weather outlook is continued rain for at least a few more days. The rains dampen things a little but the winds cause these communicators to work harder to insure they maintain communications as their antennas are blown about. They have to continuously tighten the lines and watch that the stakes are still secure in the rain soaked ground; with winds working against them to keep the antennas both standing and pointed in the correct direction. These troops are doing an outstanding job maintaining the communications through the gloomy weather. The next order of business occupying these troop's time is inventories of all their equipment. While this is a tedious process for

them; it insures they will be prepared once their time to pack out comes. They realize the process will happen again as they pack out all their equipment for shipment home; as everything has to be inspected by soldiers from other units trained to look for customs violations for items shipped back to the United States.

These task will take place later this winter and early spring as they close out of their missions. Dates continuously change – so don't get too exited or alarmed to hear a time frame today that changes tomorrow. All dates are tentative; including leave dates. Thanks again for all the continued support you give these troops so they can concentrate on their mission. You make a huge contribution to their success.

That's all for this week's newsletter. Thank you for all your support. Keep the Emails, letters and packages coming. As I've mentioned many times in this letter, all of us over here appreciate all each of you do to support us on this deployment. And, as I state every week, we're as proud of you as you are of us. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we are keeping you in ours. Continue to look after one another every day. Please contact my Rear Detachment Commander, Captain Jeff Jordan, for any issues you need help with. He can be reached at (254) 449-3184, or Email at Jeffrey.j.jordan@us.army.mil.

Sincerely, LTC John W. Baker
Baghdad, Iraq
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